Protagoras alone was banished for that crime by the Athenians) and we cannot think, that any Atheists could be the inventors of it, much less that it was the genuine spawn and brood of Atheism itself, as some conceit, because, however these Atheists adopted it to themselves, endeavouring to serve their turns of it, yet, if rightly understood, it is the most effectual engine against Atheism that can be. And we shall make it appear afterwards, , that never any of those Atheists, whether ancient or modern (how great pretenders soever to it) did thoroughly understand it, but perpetually contradicted themselves in it. And this is the reason, -why we insist so much upon this philosophy here, not only because without the perfect knowledge of it, we cannot deal with the Atheists at their own weapon; but also because we doubt not but to make a sovereign antidote against Atheism out of that very philosophy, which so many have used as *zyehiculmn* to convey this poison of Atheism by.

ix. But besides reason, we have also good historical probability for this opinion, that this philosophy was a thing of much greater antiquity than either Democritus or Leucippus. And first, because Posidonius, an ancient and learned philosopher, did (as both Empiricus* and Strabo[b] tell us) avouch it for an old tradition, that the first inventor of this Atomical philosophy, was one Mos-chus, a Phoenician, who, as Strabo also nates, lived before the Trojan wars.

x. Moreover, it seems not altogether improbable, but that this Moschus, a Phoenician philosopher, mentioned by Posidonius, might be the same with that Moehus, a Phoenician physiologer, in

[a] Lib. ix. advers. Mathemat. p,621. [b] £ib. xvi. p. 7.18.